

Miao AES

/264/

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354
361
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way to the
rice field

way to the
rice field

Poppies

Sugar beets, poppies,
vegetables

E

Fig. 57. Plan of the Meau Village Nam Fa.

Key to symbols:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1-8 = Dwellings | B = Wells |
| □ = Sleeping places | R = Cattle stable |
| ⊕ = Rice pounder | M. Sp. = Maize granary |
| □ = Hearth | R. Sp. = Rice granary |
| Schw. = Pigpen | M = Rice mill |
| H = Chicken coop | Sch. = Smithy |
| W = Water line | D = Village square |

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Other important pieces of furniture are the ladders, which /Figs. 137-138 appear here/ /306/ lead to the storage lofts. They are either tree trunks provided with notches (Fig. 137) or ladders with steps (Fig. 138). /Fig. 139 appears here. /

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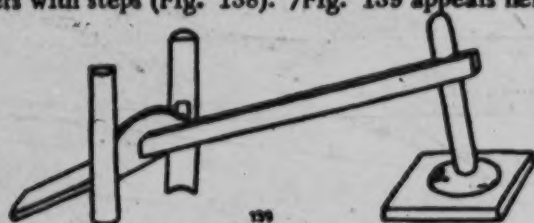


Fig. 139. Grain mortar of the Meau.
1/28 nat. size.

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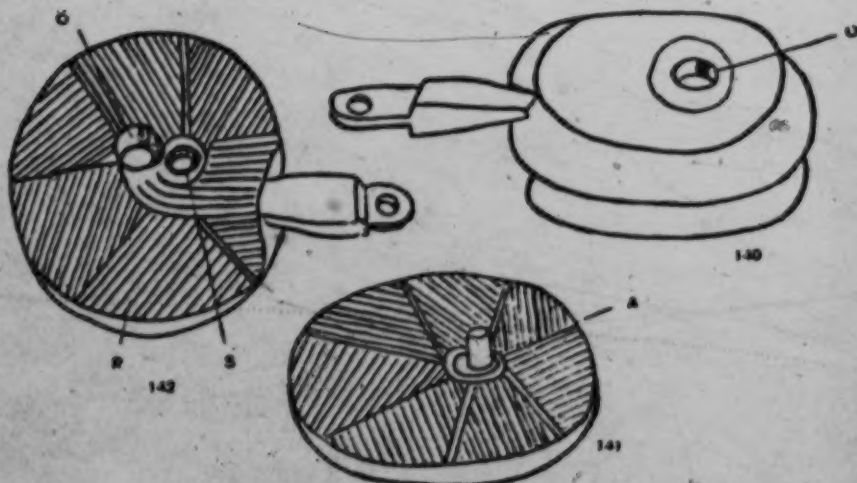


Fig. 140-142. Grain mill of the Meau. 1/10 nat. size.
Fig. 140. Millstones. joined. Fig. 141. lower, and
Fig. 142. upper millstone. O = opening for pouring in
the grain. R = grooves, S = hole for pivot A.

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412 The household and kitchen implements of the
252 Meau are very numerous. As was mentioned, all
[243] the grain and leguminous products are husked in the
[244] foot-operated mortar built into the cooking area (Fig.
139). /Figs. 140-142 appear here. /

● 256 /307/ For grinding the kernels of grain and maize the
large mill shown in Ill. 94² and Fig. 140 is used. The
lower-millstone half (Fig. 141) is immovable and is
provided with an axle (A), which is fitted into the
opening (S) of the upper stone (Fig. 142). Both mill-
stone halves are provided with grooves (R), which run
in various directions. The upper eccentric millstone
(Fig. 142) is connected with a horizontal pole. When
this is swung forward and backward, the movable-
millstone half turns. In this, on the top, a hole (O)
is chiseled out, through which the grain is poured in.
According to whether one lengthens or shortens the



Figs. 143-146. Dippers and Ladles of the Meau.

Fig. 143. Bamboo dipper. Fig. 144. Side
view of the same, 1/5 nat. size. Figs. 145
and 146. Wooden stirring ladles, 1/10 nat.
size. Fig. 147. Toothpick, 1/3 nat. size.

1 [see cat 116, p644 - ANALYST]

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/307 cont. /

256 axle which connects the two millstones to each other, it is possible merely to husk the kernels, to grind them up, or to mill them into a coarser or finer flour.

415 As cooking utensils, iron kettles (Ill. 106) and pans are
439 used, all of which are bought from Chinese traders and represent marketable trade items. Lajonquière (1) gives the

1. II. p. 303.

same description. Tea kettles of iron or brass are also present in all sizes, as are little porcelain bowls and plates of Chinese design, which come from the same source. /Figs. 143-147 appear here. /

415 /308/ In addition to bone chopsticks and the Chinese
412 dishes, homemade wooden plates and wooden ladles, as well as wooden or bamboo dippers are used (Fig. 143-146). To be
515 mentioned here also are the toothpicks, or rather toothbrushes, which are used every day and which are nothing but small wooden sticks frayed out at the top (Fig. 147).

415 The large iron pot (Fig. 148) in which meat or vegetables
252 are cooked is always standing on the hearth. Rice, however, is /Figs. 148-155 appear here/ /309/ cooked in a brass pot used for only this purpose, which usually has the shape shown in the drawing (Fig. 150). To dip out the cooked rice,

[25] strainers (Fig. 151) are used; to store it, special rice-pots of wood (Fig. 152). Moreover, for steaming, wooden vessels are used (Figs. 153-155), whose manner of utilization is described in the chapter, "Food and Stimulants. Other cooking utensils (Fig. 156-174) of the Meau are: wooden forks, wooden
412 blocks for chopping meat, wooden troughs, wooden mallets
415 carved out of forked branches for pounding dough, wooden
252 cutting boards, various knives, peculiar wooden vessels with a carrying handle for scooping up pig fodder, variously shaped gourd dippers and gourd bottles, strainers, graters, scrapers
[273] to remove the maize kernels from the ears, vessels for distilling

¹[see cat 116, p706- ANALYST]

[Text continues on p421]

/VIII cont./

286 Ill. 88. Weaving the spun material made from hemp. Portable horizontal loom with treadle device. The warp is stretched with the help of a belt around the loins. The woman at the loom is just about to strike home the sword (cf. Ill. 89).

Ill. 89. The weaver is making preparations for the woof. The shuttle is carved out of wood. The inserted bobbin, around which the hemp thread is wound, is made of bamboo. The stick that separates the two layers of thread is made out of the same material.

283 Ill. 90. Spinning machine. With its help, four threads, which the woman doing the spinning holds in her left hand, are twisted together. By means of the little stick in her right hand, she prevents the threads from becoming tangled. She turns the flywheel with both feet.

Ills. 91-96. The harvest.

262 Ill. 91. The ripe squash at the edge of the fields of mountain
[244] rice are gathered. The juicy, tart meat of the raw fruit is especially tasty in the great heat.

243 Ill. 92. The stalks of the mountain rice are cut individually, with the help of the small crescent-shaped harvesting knife, about 30 centimeters below the ear and then bundled. The straw is left standing in the fields and rots.

Ill. 93. Bringing in the harvest. Each member of the family loads himself with as many bundles of ears in carriers and baskets as he can carry. Then there is a walk for hours over the narrow mountain paths to the village. The men carry in their hands the crossbows with arrows in place ready to shoot.

[484]

/IX/

252 Ill. 94. Peculiar mills of the Meau. The lower-millstone half
256 is fixed, the upper part is eccentrically attached to a horizontal pole. When the latter is swing back and forth, the movable-millstone half turns. A hole is chiseled in the top of it, through which the grain is poured in. According to whether the wooden axle which connects



Ill. 94. Peculiar mill of the Meau.

Between pp. 474 and 475/

39: Bernatzik-644 E-5 (1936-1937) 1947 AOI Thailand

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the two millstone halves with each other is lengthened or shortened, it is possible to hull the rice or maize kernels or to grind them into coarser or finer flour.

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Ill. 95. Rice-harvesting knife of the Meau. It consists of a semicircular wooden handle with an inserted metal blade. A string over the back of the hand provides the necessary firmness. The photograph clearly shows how the implement is held. The ears are cut individually, row after row. Because of the manual dexterity of the Meau, the harvesting nevertheless proceeds rapidly.

Ill. 96. Part of the rice is hulled in the field. A hole carved in a felled giant of the primeval forest forms the container. The pestle is fastened to a crosspole and is set in motion when one steps on the shorter lever. The axis of the lever arm is fastened between the upright wooden posts.

Ills. 97-103. Religion and magic.

778 Ill. 97. Sacral sign that the shaman sets up in front of the doors of the houses as a sign of a holiday.

787 Ill. 98. Stick oracle. A number of questions are addressed to the spirits. Each bamboo stick signifies a question. All the sticks are bent in a special manner. The answer of the spirits is signified by the position of the upper edge of the bend.

755 Ill. 99. Calling back a lost soul. The shaman (left) has thrown
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[756] oracle horns (the tips of gaur horns) on the ground. Only if these come to rest in a certain way does it mean that the spirits are willing to appear. The magic rattle is on the bench in the foreground. In the background squats the father of the patient, beside whom, on the beam, is the patient, whose soul "has fled beyond the clouds."

[782] Ill. 100. Continuation of the ceremony from Ill. 99. The invoked spirits have given the order to dig a pit in the floor of the house and then to burn spirit-money. The lost soul of the patient is urged to enter the pit. It is then closed with a stone and the soul, it is believed, is caught.